

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A receptacle for material, the receptacle comprising:
a base configured to rest on a surface, the base having a containment portion for holding material and a ramp portion along which material being moved from the surface to the containment portion can be slid,
wherein the ramp portion has a top surface with a first angle of inclination at a first location that is less than a second angle of inclination at a second location located rearward of the first location, and wherein the first and second angles of inclination are measured with respect to the surface.
2. The receptacle of claim 1, further comprising:
an indentation in a rear wall of the base, the indentation projecting into an interior of the receptacle and being configured to receive at least a front portion of a user's foot.
3. The receptacle of claim 2, wherein an upper portion of the indentation is configured to be a handle.
4. The receptacle of claim 1, wherein the angle of inclination of the top surface continuously increases from the first angle to the second angle.
5. The receptacle of claim 1, wherein the first angle is no greater than about 20°, and wherein the second angle is no greater than about 40°.
6. The receptacle of claim 1, wherein a third angle of inclination at a third location on the top surface is less than the first angle of inclination, the third angle of inclination being disposed forward of the first location.
7. The receptacle of claim 6, wherein the first angle is no greater than about 20°, wherein the second angle is no greater than about 40°, and wherein the third angle is no greater than about 15°.

8. The receptacle of claim 6, wherein the ramp portion includes a blade, and wherein the third location is on the blade.

9. The receptacle of claim 8, wherein the blade is detachably connected to a front part of a sloped portion of the ramp portion.

10. A receptacle for receiving material, the receptacle comprising:

a base comprising:

a containment portion; and

a ramp portion comprising:

a sloped portion; and

a flexible portion having greater flexibility than the sloped portion and configured to contact a surface from which material will be removed; and

at least one spacer connected to the ramp portion and configured to maintain a rear part of the flexible portion at a predetermined height relative to the surface from which material will be removed so as to inhibit a front edge of the flexible portion from losing contact with the surface when a downward force is applied to the receptacle by a user.

11. The receptacle of claim 10, further comprising:

an indentation in a rear wall of the receptacle, the indentation being configured to receive at least a front portion of a user's foot.

12. The receptacle of claim 11, wherein an upper portion of the indentation is configured to be a handle.

13. The receptacle of claim 10, wherein the flexible portion includes a detachable blade.

14. The receptacle of claim 10, wherein a first of said at least one spacer is positioned at an end of the flexible portion and a second of said at least one spacer is positioned at another end of the flexible portion.

15. The receptacle of claim 14, wherein each of the first and second spacers has a lowest portion which is substantially coplanar with at least one pad on a rear of the base.

16. A receptacle for material, the receptacle comprising:
a base comprising:

a containment portion; and

a ramp portion comprising:

a sloped portion; and

a contact portion configured to contact a surface from which material is to be removed, the contact portion being formed of flexible material;

at least one support connected to the ramp portion and configured to inhibit the contact portion from losing contact with the surface from which material is to be removed, when a downward force is applied to the receptacle.

17. The receptacle of claim 16, further comprising:

an indentation in a rear wall of the receptacle, the indentation being configured to receive at least a front portion of a user's foot.

18. The receptacle of claim 17, wherein an upper portion of the indentation is adapted to function as a handle.

19. The receptacle of claim 16, wherein a first of said at least one support is positioned at one end of the contact portion, wherein a second of said at least one support is positioned at an opposite end of the contact portion.

20. A receptacle for material, the receptacle comprising:

a base having a containment portion for holding material and a ramp portion along which material being moved to the containment portion can be slid, the ramp portion having a blade and a sloped portion;
a first sidewall connected to a first side of the base; and
a second sidewall connected to a second side of the base,
wherein the blade is detachably connected to the sloped portion and is substantially recessed within the sidewalls.

21. The receptacle accordingly to claim 20, wherein substantially all of the blade is between the first and second sidewalls.

22. The receptacle of claim 20, wherein at least about 50% of the blade is between the first and second sidewalls.

23. The receptacle of claim 20, wherein at least about 95% of the blade is between the first and second sidewalls.

24. A cleaning device comprising:

a receptacle for material, the receptacle including a base, a first sidewall connected to a first side of the base, and a second sidewall connected to a second side of the base, wherein the first and second sidewalls have substantially continuous and uninterrupted surfaces; and
a handle pivotably connected to the first and second sidewalls of the receptacle.

25. The cleaning device of claim 24, wherein the base and the sides are integrally formed.

26. The cleaning devices of claim 24, wherein the receptacle further comprises:
an indentation in a rear wall of the receptacle, the indentation being configured to receive a front portion of a user's foot.

27. The cleaning device of claim 24, wherein handle includes first and second engagement members connected to respective outer surfaces of the first and second sidewalls.

28. The cleaning device of claim 24, wherein the handle comprises a hanging implement by which the cleaning device is adapted to be hanged.

29. A method of reducing the time necessary to remove a hazard on a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, in an area prone to hazards, a receptacle for a hazard and a tool for moving a hazard into the receptacle;

upon occurrence of a hazard, using the tool to move the hazard into the receptacle.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of maintaining the orientation of the receptacle while using the tool to move the hazard into the receptacle by placing a front portion of a user's foot in an indentation in a rear wall of the cleaning device; and pressing downward with the front portion of the user's foot thereby forcing the receptacle against the surface.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the hazard is at least one of liquid, moisture, broken glass, foodstuffs, and animal feces.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the area prone to hazards is selected from the group consisting of a grocery store, a hospital, a movie theater, an amusement park, a cafeteria, a restaurant, a stable, and a stadium.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the tool comprises a shaft connected to a cleaning member.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the cleaning member comprises a pad.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the pad is folded rubber.